



February 27, 2008

TO: Representative Jerry Petrowski, Chair
Members of the Assembly Committee on Transportation

FR: Dave Krahn
Legislative Policy Advisor

RE: AB 847 – Vehicle Owner Liability for Failure to Stop as Required for a School Bus

The law, as written, is a very good piece of legislation and very necessary. Enabling law enforcement to write citations based on the information provided by the written School Bus Drivers Report ensures that more violators are caught and prosecuted, and that subsequently schoolchildren are safer.

The way the law works now, when the citation is issued, if the vehicle owner resides in Waukesha County, the citation goes to the Process Division and it is sent out with deputies to be served. The way that the statute now reads, reasonable diligence has to be used to serve the vehicle owner before the citation can be substitute-served on a family member at that residence. In the Civil Process procedures, "reasonable diligence" has been interpreted as three attempts at the residence. This adds up to many extra process servings, extra costs and the need to pull personnel from other more urgent duties.

AB 847 would allow us to mail the completed citations to the owner's last known address via Certified Mail, freeing us from the burden of making numerous attempts at delivery with uniformed officers.

In a climate of revenue shortfalls, levy limits and the need to manage our county responsibilities as cost-effectively and efficiently as possible, AB 847 just adds up to good old-fashioned common sense.

Waukesha County urges you to support Assembly Bill 847.

Thank you for your consideration.